

Remarks

During prosecution of the parent UK Patent Application, the Examiner has located DE29717020, which is included with this filing as part of an IDS. That reference, while pertinent, does not provide a Rucksack which is closed or closable during normal use. Attention is directed to the straps passing through the plastic-coated rear face of the rucksack, therefore, this reference does not provide a rucksack which is particularly useful. The loss of contents through the aperture, which can never be securely fastened, presents a significant disadvantage.

Claim 27 have been amended in the final paragraph to distinguish clearly from the German reference. Claim 28 has been cancelled and an appropriate amendments have been made to the remaining claims to conform.

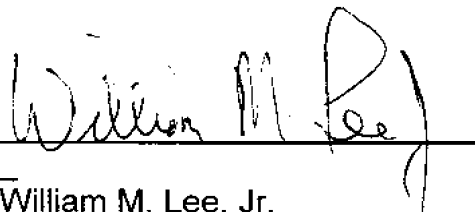
Claim 30 has been amended to add the concluding clause to make it clear that the strap may comprise a loop element. Claims 34 and 35 have also been amended to properly conform to the invention.

The underlying UK Application is in the process of being allowed.

Further action by the Examiner is awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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